

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of the Claims

1-35. (canceled)

36. (new) A method for performing a surgical procedure on a patient comprising:

(a) providing a platform that includes:

(i) a concave surface and a convex surface, wherein the concave surface is configured to be biased against a portion of the patient's anatomy such that at least three points of the concave surface contact the portion of the patient's anatomy;

(ii) at least two fasteners configured to secure the platform to the portion of the patient's anatomy, wherein each of the fasteners is configured to be connected to bone of the individual such that at least one of the fasteners is not parallel to at least one other of the fasteners;

(iii) a plurality of receptacles that extend between the concave and convex surfaces of the platform, the receptacles configured to receive the fasteners in a plurality of angulations whereby the fasteners are configured to be oriented and positioned to fasten the platform to the portion of the patient's anatomy; and

(iv) at least one portal structure extending from the convex surface of the platform, the portal structure including a guiding structure, the guiding structure configured

to guide and orient a surgical item in a desired angular relationship with the portion of the patient's anatomy;

(b) securing the platform to the portion of the patient's anatomy using the fasteners;

(c) guiding the surgical item using the guiding structure; and

(d) completing the surgical procedure.

37. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the guiding structure is a cylindrical bore.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the bore extends in a direction radially from the concave surface.

39. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one portal structure has a slot.

40. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a drill guide.

41. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a portion of a drill.

42. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a reamer.

43. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a saw.

44. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the platform further comprises a flexible arm configured to be affixed to the portion of the patient's anatomy.

45. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the flexible arm is formed from a material with memory to retain its shape once bent.

46. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the platform further comprises a plurality of protrusions, wherein at least some of the protrusions are configured to interact with the surgical item in a rotating or sliding fashion.

47. (new) A method for performing a surgical procedure on a patient comprising:

(a) providing a platform that includes:

(i) a concave surface and a convex surface, wherein the concave surface is configured to be biased against a portion of the patient's anatomy such that at least three points of the concave surface contact the portion of the patient's anatomy;

- (ii) a flexible arm configured to secure the platform to the portion of the patient's anatomy;
  - (iii) at least one portal structure extending from the convex surface of the platform, the portal structure including a guiding structure, the guiding structure configured to guide and orient a portion of a drill in a desired angular relationship with the portion of the patient's anatomy; and
  - (iv) a plurality of protrusions, wherein at least some of the protrusions are configured to interact with the portion of the drill in a rotating or sliding fashion;
- (b) securing the platform to the portion of the patient's anatomy using the flexible arm;
  - (c) guiding the portion of the drill using the guiding structure; and
  - (d) completing the surgical procedure.

48. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the guiding structure is a cylindrical bore.

49. (new) The method of claim 48, wherein the bore extends in a direction radially from the concave surface.

50. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a drill guide.

51. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the at least one portal structure has a slot.

52. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a saw.

53. (new) A method for performing a surgical procedure on a patient comprising:

(a) providing a platform that includes:

(i) a concave surface and a convex surface, wherein the concave surface is configured to be biased against a portion of the patient's anatomy such that at least three points of the concave surface contact the portion of the patient's anatomy;

(ii) a flexible arm configured to secure the platform to the portion of the patient's anatomy; and

(iii) at least one portal structure extending from the convex surface of the platform, the portal structure including a guiding structure, the guiding structure configured to guide and orient a portion of a surgical item in a desired angular relationship with the portion of the patient's anatomy;

(b) securing the platform to the portion of the patient's anatomy using the flexible arm;

(c) guiding the surgical item using the guiding structure; and

(d) completing the surgical procedure.

54. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the guiding structure is a cylindrical bore.

55. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein the bore extends in a direction radially from the concave surface.

56. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the at least one portal structure has a slot.

57. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a drill guide.

58. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a portion of a drill.

59. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a reamer.

60. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a saw.

61. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the platform further comprises a plurality of protrusions, wherein at least some of the protrusions are configured to interact with the surgical item in a rotating or sliding fashion.

62. (new) A method for performing a surgical procedure on a patient comprising:

(a) providing a platform that includes:

(i) a concave surface and a convex surface, wherein the concave surface is configured to be biased against a portion of the patient's anatomy such that at least three points of the concave surface contact the portion of the patient's anatomy;

(ii) at least two fasteners configured to secure the platform to the portion of the patient's anatomy, wherein each of the fasteners is configured to be connected to bone of the individual such that at least one of the fasteners is not parallel to at least one other of the fasteners;

(iii) a plurality of receptacles that extend between the concave and convex surfaces of the platform, the receptacles configured to receive the fasteners in a plurality of angulations whereby the fasteners are configured to be oriented and positioned to fasten the platform to the portion of the patient's anatomy;

(iv) a rigid arm configured to be affixed to the portion of the patient's anatomy;

(v) at least one portal structure extending from the convex surface of the platform, the portal structure including a guiding structure, the guiding structure configured

to guide and orient a surgical item in a desired angular relationship with the portion of the patient's anatomy; and

(vi) a plurality of protrusions, wherein at least some of the protrusions are configured to interact with the portion of the drill in a rotating or sliding fashion;

(b) securing the platform to the portion of the patient's anatomy using the fasteners;

(c) affixing the rigid arm to the portion of the patient's anatomy;

(d) guiding the surgical item using the guiding structure; and

(e) completing the surgical procedure.

63. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the guiding structure is a cylindrical bore.

64. (new) The method of claim 63, wherein the bore extends in a direction radially from the concave surface.

65. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the at least one portal structure has a slot.

66. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a drill guide.



67. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a portion of a drill.

68. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a reamer.

69. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the at least one portal structure is configured to receive a saw.